

Message Text

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HOLD FOR SONNENFELDT

FOL REPEAT ROME 16177 TO SECSTATE INFO COPENHAGEN DUBLIN LONDON
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QTE:

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 16177

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EEC, PFOR, IT

SUBJECT: EC MINISTERIAL, NOVEMBER 18

1. FOLLOWING IS RUNDOWN ON EC MINISTERS' MEETING YESTERDAY
IN PARIS, AS GIVEN US BY VICE DIRECTOR GENERAL (POLITICAL)
LA ROCCA OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY.

2. PREPARATIONS FOR EC SUMMIT (WHICH WILL RPT WILL BE HELD
SINCE "NO ONE REALLY WANTS TO SAY NO TO GISCARD") DOMINATED
THE SESSION. THERE IS AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE THAT HEADS OF
GOVERNMENT/CHIEFS OF STATE SHOULD MEET PERIODICALLY WITH THEIR
FOREIGN MINISTERS, PROBABLY TWICE YEARLY OR "AS NEEDED."
THE IMPORTANT POINT IS THAT THEY SHOULD LOOK AT PROBLEMS
IN THEIR "GLOBAL" CONTEXT. WHEN DEALING WITH COMMUNITY
AFFAIRS, THEY WOULD MEET AS COUNCIL OF THE COMMUNITY; WHEN
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TREATING OF QUESTIONS PERTAINING TO POLITICAL COOPERATION,

GROUP WOULD BE OTHERWISE DESIGNATED.

NO PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE ON SECRETARIAT ISSUE; ITALY IS PREPARED TO SUGGEST THAT COMMISSION PRESIDENT SHOULD CALL ON "EXISTING RESOURCES" FOR PERIODIC ASSISTANCE, AVOIDING AN INSTITUTIONALIZED STRUCTURE BUT UTILIZING BOTH EC COMMISSIONS PERSONNEL AND THOSE FROM THE PRESENT POLITICAL COMMITTEE. ON ELECTIONS FOR THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE EIGHT WOULD AGREE ON A SINGLE TEXT WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THE UK COULD POSTPONE A DECISION UNTIL RENEGOTIATION PROCESS IS FINISHED.

3. LA ROCCA SAID THAT IN THE MEETING ON NOVEMBER 18 THE MINISTERS AGREED, WITH RELUCTANT FRENCH CONSENT, THAT PLO SHOULD NOT RPT NOT BE ALLOWED TO SIT IN ON EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE, EVEN WITH OBSERVER STATUS. SIMILARLY, NINE AGREED THAT PRESENT TEXT OF PALESTINE RESOLUTION AT UNGA IS UNSATISFACTORY, THAT ABSTENTION WILL BE THEIR POSTURE, AND THAT, WITHOUT GETTING INTO TEXTUAL NEGOTIATIONS, THEY WILL INDICATE THEIR DIS-SATISFACTION WITH THE RESOLUTION TO ARAB SPONSORS. HOWEVER, LA ROCCA INDICATED, A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF LEEWAY WILL BE GIVEN THE NINE DELEGATIONS IN NEW YORK ON HOW THEY HANDLE THE PROBLEM.

4. LA ROCCA IS RETURNING TO PARIS TOMORROW FOR ANOTHER SESSION WITH DRAFTING GROUP, AND ANTICIPATES THAT FINAL DECISIONS ON SUMMIT AGENDA WILL NOT BE TAKEN UNTIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 25. THIS MEETING WAS INTENDED TO DEAL ONLY WITH ECONOMIC MATTERS BUT WILL HAVE TO COVER POLITICAL ISSUES AS WELL. THE ITALIANS ARE PRESSING TO INCLUDE A DECISION ON THE REGIONAL FUND. INTERESTINGLY, THE UK NOW OPPOSES A DECISION ON THIS FOR FEAR IT WILL COMPLICATE THEIR NEGOTIATIONS ON THE COMMUNITY BUDGET. VOLPE UNQTE INGERSOLL

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